

REMARKS

Claims 9 and 16-20 remain pending in the present application. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-8, 11-13 and 15 have been cancelled. Claims 9 and 16 have been amended. Basis for the amendments can be found throughout the specification, claims and drawings as originally filed.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-9, 11-13 and 15-20 are objected to because of the following informalities: "automobile vehicle" as cited in each of base Claims 1, 4 and 16 should be replaced with "automotive vehicle" for improved consistency and grammatical correctness. Base Claims 1 and 4 have been cancelled. Base Claim 16 has been amended to overcome the objection. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-9, 11-13 and 15-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-8, 11-13 and 15 have been cancelled. Claims 9 and 16-20 have been amended to overcome the rejection. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

As best can be understood in view of the indefiniteness of the claims, Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-9, 11-13 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable

over Latcau (filed July 30, 1999) in view of Daimler-Benz AG (DE 36 30 646C1, of record) or, alternately, in view of Nissan Shatai Co. Ltd. (JP Publication No. 01109182A, of record). Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-8, 11-13 and 15 have been cancelled. Claim 9 has been amended to depend from Claim 16. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 16-20 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office Action. Claim 16 has been amended and is now believed to overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejection. Claims 17-20 depend from Claim 16. Claim 9 has been amended to depend from Claim 16.

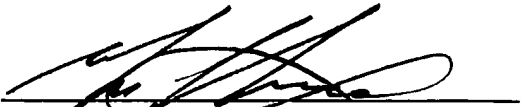
CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:


Michael J. Schmidt, 34,007

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600

MJS/pmg